Setting up of a cell in each PSU

*218. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Department is contemplating to set up a cell in each PSU targeted for privatisation;

(b) if so, the purpose of setting up of a cell in each PSU;

(c) whether the setting up of cell in each PSU will have any impact on the functioning of that PSU; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Production of anti-snake venom serum

*219. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are some differences between the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration regarding anti-snake venom serum being produced by State-run Haffkin Bio-Pharmaceutical Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the differences have been settled and the production of serum resumed as per the Central advice?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (HBPCL), Mumbai, is a public sector undertaking under the Government of Maharashtra, engaged in manufacture of various biological and non-biological drugs, vaccines and sera, including Anti Snake Venom Serum (ASVS). After the "Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control & Supervision) Rules, 1998" under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, came into force, it has become necessary for HBPCL to register itself with the Committee for the purpose of Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CPCSEA). HBPCL got itself registered with the CPCSEA under Rule 5-A of the Breeding of and Experiments on Animals (Control & Supervision) Rule, 1998 in June, 2000. This registration was for HBPCL's Animal House at Parel, Mumbai. The ASVS is manufactured at Pimpri, Pune, where its horse farm is located.

For registration of this farm with CPCSEA an application was made on 8.1.2001. Thereafter the inspections were carried out by CPCSEA. Suggestions

made by them were implemented by HBPCL. However, the registration of HBPCL was not given on the grounds that the Institute is not following the prescribed guidelines in the production of Anti-Snake Venom Serum. On 29.3.2001, the Member Secretary, CPCSEA directed HBPCL to suspend production of ASVS, which was complied with by HBPCL. Since monsoon was approaching, a shortage of this life saving drug was apprehended and the Government of Maharashtra advised HBPCL to resume production of ASVS. Accordingly, HBPCL resumed production of ASVS from 30.5.2001 onwards and the fact was informed to the Government of Maharashtra and CPCSEA. Since the Food and Drug Administration, Government of Maharashtra, has not sent any proposal for suspension/cancellation of ASVS manufactured by HBPCL to the Drug Controller General of India, who is the Central Licensing Approval Authority (CLAA), has neither cancelled nor suspended the production of ASVS production by HBPCL.

The Government of Maharashtra has also decided to form a high level committee of experts to review various aspects regarding management of enquines in Anti-Snake Venom Serum production in Pune. The State Government has informed the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment that it is committed to prevent cruelty to animals.

Programmes withdrawn by producers from prime time slots of Doordarshan

*220. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several producers have withdrawn their programmes from prime time slots of Doordarshan during the last one year;

(b) the names of producers and names of TV serials with time slots on Doordarshan and DD Metro who have withdrawn their programmes during the last two years; and

(c) the revenue generated by various TV programmes/serials on prime time slots of Doordarshan and DD Metro during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Prasar Bharati has intimated that several producers have withdrawn their programmes from prime time slots of Doordarshan.